IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 9 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for issuing an installation key to a software user for installing software on a computer, comprising the ~~following~~ steps of:

a user notifying ~~from the user to~~ a sales company of the user's ID information;

communicating the notified ID information from said sales company to an authorizing agency to request ~~the~~ confirmation of <u>legitimacy of</u> the user having notified said ID information;

confirming <u>the legitimacy of</u> said user in said authorizing agency in accordance with said notified ID information to communicate ~~the~~ <u>a</u> result of <u>the</u> confirmation to said sales company; and

producing, in said sales company, an installation key uniquely corresponding to said user on the basis of said ID information, <u>and</u> ~~for~~ issuing said installation key to said user if the user is confirmed to be ~~the~~ <u>a</u> legitimate user.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for issuing an installation key according to Claim 1, wherein said authorizing agency is a credit company, and said ID information is ~~the~~ credit information of said ~~user's own~~ <u>user</u> regarding ~~the~~ <u>a</u> credit card issued by said credit company to said user, and said installation key is produced in said ~~issuance~~ <u>issuing</u> step by operating a designated calculation in accordance with said credit information.

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3. (Currently Amended) A method for issuing an installation key according to Claim 2, wherein said credit information contains ~~the~~ a credit card number, ~~the~~ a card holder's name, and ~~the~~ validity of use, and the designated calculation is operated at least for one of said credit card number, card holder's name, and validity of use in order to produce said installation key.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for issuing an installation key according to Claim 2, wherein the sales company further notifies said authorizing agency of ~~the~~ a price of said software, and said authorizing agency confirms the authorized use of the credit card in accordance with the notified price and ~~the~~ a limit set for ~~the~~ an amount of use, and informs said sales company of the result thereof, and said sales company executes said issuing step ~~of issuance~~ if said user is confirmed to be the legitimate user and the use of the credit card is ~~notified to be~~ approved.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for issuing an installation key according to Claim 1, further comprising the ~~following~~ steps of:

inputting the installation key and said ID information into an installer;

a second producing step of producing an installation key from the ~~inputted~~ ID information by use of said installer to compare the produced installation key and the ~~inputted~~ installation key; and

executing installation by use of said installer if the comparison results are in agreement in said ~~comparing~~ second producing step.

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6. (Currently Amended) A system for issuing an installation key for installing software on a computer, comprising:

acquiring means for acquiring ID information from a user;

communicating means for communicating the acquired ID information to an authorizing agency to confirm legitimacy of the user having ~~notified~~ said ID information; and

producing means for producing an installation key uniquely corresponding to said user in accordance with said ID information and for issuing said installation key to said user if said user is confirmed by said authorizing agency to be ~~the~~ a legitimate user.

7. (Currently Amended) A program ~~of~~ for installation key issuance for controlling a computer to issue an installation key for installing software on a computer, the program comprising the ~~following codes for causing the computer to perform~~ steps of:

~~a step of~~ acquiring ID information from a user;

~~a step of~~ communicating the acquired ID information to an authorizing agency to confirm legitimacy of the user having ~~notified~~ said ID information; and

~~a step of~~ producing an installation key uniquely corresponding to said user in accordance with said ID information, and ~~for~~ issuing said installation key to said user if said user is confirmed by said authorizing agency to be ~~the~~ a legitimate user.

8. (Currently Amended) An installing method for installing software on a computer system, comprising the steps of:

displaying ~~the~~ an installation screen of said software by actuating an installer;

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inputting ~~the~~ an installation key issued by a sales company and ~~the~~ ID

information of ~~the computer~~ a user into the ~~input columns on said installer~~ installation

screen; and

producting a key uniquely corresponding to said ~~computer~~ user in

accordance with said ID information, and comparing ~~for comparison with~~ said key and said

installation key, and executing the installation of said software if ~~these~~ the key and the

installation key are in agreement.

9. (Currently Amended) An installation program for controlling the

computer of a computer system for installing software, the program comprising the ~~codes~~

~~for causing the computer to perform~~ steps of:

~~a step of~~ displaying ~~the~~ an installation screen for installing ~~of~~ said software;

~~a step of~~ inputting ~~the~~ an installation key issued by a sales company and ~~the~~

ID information of ~~the computer~~ a user into said installation screen; and

~~a step of~~ producing a key uniquely corresponding to said ~~computer~~ user in

accordance with said ID information, and comparing ~~for comparison~~ said key with said

installation key, and executing the installation of said software if ~~these~~ the key and the

installation key are in agreement.